



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents
FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner
RE: Common Core State Standards Implementation and Next Generation Assessments
DATE: June 4, 2013

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office, in preparation for the Smarter Balanced online computer-adaptive testing in 2015, is analyzing data from the [Technology Readiness Tool](#), as it relates to Connecticut schools and districts. Information collected in these inventories will provide reports of your district's results and indicators, allowing you to identify potential issues (at schools or within your district) meeting the minimum Smarter Balanced requirements for testing, which will in turn help the CSDE and you make informed technology related decisions for your district.

Many districts have already checked their profile on the [Technology Readiness Tool](#) and we thank you. However, if you haven't had an opportunity to check your district profile to ensure that the most current and accurate data is captured, we ask that you or your technology designee please check your district profile before the next snapshot is taken on June 14, 2013. Doing so allows users, including CSDE staff, to maximize the use of the *Results and Indicator Reports*. The following distinctions, when filling-in your data on the [Technology Readiness Tool](#), are worth noting:

- **Estimated Internet Bandwidth Field Values:** This field should represent the value that most closely matches the volume of data that your internet connection can move over a specified time for a *specific* school or building. This value may not match the value of the final internet connection for a multiple school district. As a result, a multiple school district should be evaluated in accordance with available bandwidth between a school building and the facility that provides the connection, as well as the final connection speed to the internet.
- Please be aware that a typical multiple school or location district will only have one location or school with a connection to the internet, usually over Connecticut Education Network (CEN).
- **Estimated Internal Network Bandwidth Field Values:** This field should represent the value that most closely matches your internal network capacity for a *specific* school or building. This is typically the bandwidth within a single location or school.
- In some districts, fields have been left "missing" on the survey. Where possible, these fields should be completed.
- Some districts that chose to load data electronically may have uploaded duplicate files so district device counts are artificially high. This should be corrected.
- Please make sure to double check your (computer) device data on your district profile.

If the data in the December 2012 snapshot were both complete and accurate and has not changed since then, ***no*** further action is necessary at this time. However, if you need to update your district's information, assistance is available in revised training materials and support documentation on the [Technology Readiness Tool](#) website. The user name to access the tool is your e-mail address. If you have forgotten your password or have questions, please contact Abe Krisst via telephone at 860-713-6894 or via e-mail at abe.krisst@ct.gov.

The CSDE understands that administration of the assessments may need to be sequenced and staggered in the Smarter Balanced era, which is why Smarter Balanced has created a [Technology Readiness Calculator](#) for your district and schools to estimate the number of days and associated network bandwidth required to complete Smarter Balanced assessments. This tool allows schools and districts to enter the number of students, number of computers, and number of hours per day that computers are available for testing.